



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities**  
*Frank E. Shelp, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner*

**Division of Mental Health**

Two Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 23.415 • Atlanta, Georgia, 30303-3142 • 404-657-2273

**Date/Time:**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

10am – 3pm; Sign-in begins at 9am

**Location:**

**ATLANTA, GA**

The State Bar of Georgia  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Auditorium  
104 Marietta Street,  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Directions:**

[http://gabbar.org/public/pdf/Map\\_to\\_Building1.pdf](http://gabbar.org/public/pdf/Map_to_Building1.pdf)

**Register Online at:**

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/dbhdd/pss.php>

This registration link is dedicated to the  
Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and  
At-Risk Children and Youth:  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar Series

**Registration Deadline:**  
**October 31, 2011**

**Audience:**

The seminar series is designed to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and to be inclusive of all parties that support children and youth, parents, foster parents and community organizations, local government entities, state departments and their contracted provider organizations.

**Cost:**

There is no charge to participants

**Questions? Contact**

[RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us)

**TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CRITICAL ISSUES FACING SPECIAL NEEDS AND  
AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

9th Annual Professional Seminar Series:  
**A Day on Psychotropic Medications  
and the Role they Play with our Youth**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' Suicide Prevention Program, in partnership with the Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Justice for Children, the Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness is pleased to announce the 9th Annual Professional Seminar Series. **A Day on Psychotropic Medications and the Role they Play with our Youth** will be the first of six seminars within this series.

The purpose of this series is to provide individuals who work with special needs and at-risk children, including professionals and family members, with an understanding of the experiences of at-risk children and associated interventions; these may include pharmacological, behavioral and family interventions. Each program will reference the risk of suicide in children and provide resources for suicide prevention.

**See attached training description of the first seminar for more details.**

**Presenters:**

Melissa Dorris Carter, Executive Director at Barton Child Law & Policy Center in Atlanta, GA.

Brent Wilson, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

**CEUs:**

Application submitted to the School of Social Work at UGA. We are also seeking Continuing Legal Education Units (CLE's). CEU's from the Georgia Psychological Association are NOT available for this training. If CEUs are awarded, there will be no charge to participants.

**Parking:**

The State Bar of Georgia has an adjacent parking deck; the fee is **\$8.00 per day**.

## **2011-2012 - 9th ANNUAL SEMINAR SERIES**

### **CRITICAL ISSUES FACING SPECIAL NEEDS AND AT- RISK CHILDREN**

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#### **SEMINAR SERIES (1 of 6):**

### **A Day on Psychotropic Medications and the Role they Play with our Youth**

November 7, 2011  
10am – 3pm  
Atlanta, GA

#### **Part I: Psychotropic Medications for DFCS Kids: Who Decides?**

The number of youth in foster care in Georgia who are receiving psychotropic medications has not been measured. Accurate information is not regularly compiled regarding the type and number of medications being prescribed to individual children; the number of children under the age of six who are receiving psychotropic medications; the type of ongoing medical and psychiatric care that is provided to youth who are taking psychotropic medications; and the cost to the state for these medications.

The administration of psychotropic medications to youth in foster care raises several questions concerning the health and safety of children for whom the state is their legal parent:

- Children in foster care do not always have an involved parent who understands health care options and makes informed decisions about medications and treatment, so who is performing this role for children in foster care?
- Are the expensive Medicaid prescriptions being given to youth in foster care essential for optimizing their health? Are non-pharmacological treatments being considered for these youth instead of or in addition to medication?
- How are these medicines, most of which do not have FDA approval for use in children, affecting the future health of youth in foster care?
- Are children receiving appropriate pre-prescription mental and physical health assessments as well as proper follow-up and monitoring while taking psychotropic drugs?

#### **Part II: Understanding Psychotropic Medications for Non-Medical Decision Makers**

Dr. Brent Wilson will be presenting on the psychotropic medications. This discussion will include a discussion about common diagnoses for children and adolescents and a review of medications used to treat as well as non-medication treatment options. Dr. Wilson will review the most commonly prescribed psychotropic medications for children and adolescents, what are their side effects, what are proper monitoring strategies and what are possible dangerous medication combinations. He will also discuss polypharmacy, the benefits and risks of various medications, on and off label uses of various drugs, as well as the standard of care of treatment for various mental disorders.